

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-15, 17-18, 21-22 and 26-44 without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method for decoding a scrambled image formed by a first incoherent fiber bundle in a microscope comprising the steps of:

raster scanning a focused light spot onto a first end of the first fiber bundle;

sequentially reading out the corresponding fiber at a second end of said

bundle; and

decoding the scrambled image formed by said first fiber bundle with a second incoherent fiber bundle.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method for decoding a scrambled image formed by a first incoherent fiber bundle in a microscope comprising the steps of:

illuminating a first end of a first incoherent fiber bundle with a coded line pattern;

imaging the corresponding fibers at a second end of said bundle; and

decoding the scrambled image formed by said first fiber bundle with a second incoherent fiber bundle.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the microscope is insertable.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the coded line pattern is spatially coded.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the coded line pattern is color-coded.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the microscope is insertable.

26-44. (Canceled)